

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 /095 W
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R 141734Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6131
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LONDON 11620

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK
SUBJECT: OWEN STATEMENT ON RHODESIA

1. IN PARLIAMENT ON JULY 13. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN
ANNOUNCED HE WAS CONSIDERING THE REPORT OF THE ANGLO-
AMERICAN CONSULTATIVE GROUP AND WOULD BE MEETING WITH
SECRETARY VANCE IN WASHINGTON ON JULY 23.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR, OWEN SAID,
"THE (RECENT) STATEMENT BY MR. SMITH'S SPOKESMAN IS
DISAPPOINTING AND CERTAINLY IN SOME RESPECTS CONFLICTS
WITH THE REPORT I HAD FROM MR. GRAHAM AND MR. LOW."

3. ASKED FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS ON A RHODESIA
SETTLEMENT, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY RESPONDED: "IN SOME
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SENSES TIME HAS BEEN RUNNING OUT EVER SINCE THE ILLEGAL
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE. I DO NOT HIDE FROM THE
HOUSE THAT THE SITUATION IS DETERIORATING STEADILY IN
SOME AREAS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ARMED STRUGGLE HAS
GATHERED MOMENTUM.
THE PROBLEM WE FACE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IS HOW
TO ACHIEVE A TRANSITION DURING WHICH THERE WILL BE, IN A

CLIMATE OF PEACE, FAIR ELECTIONS. THIS RELATES TO LAW
AND ORDER AND IN SOME WAY TO BRINGING TOGETHER THE TWO
ARMIES--THE RHODESIAN DEFENSE FORCES AND THE LIBERATION
ARMES.

THE OPPOSITION MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS A WAR
BEING FOUGHT AND IF YOU WISH TO BRING A PEACEFUL SETTLE-
MENT THEN YOU WILL HAVE TO TRY TO HAVE A CEASEFIRE. AND
THATSMEANS BOTH SIDES."

BREWSTER

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